

the loan of skins for examination, to Dr. Charles Vaurie of the American Museum of Natural History for his comments on a preliminary note, to Dr. R. W. Storer of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, for notes on the type specimen of *A. m. nubifuga*, to Dr. Sálím Ali for access to several references, and particularly to Dr. G. Mauersberger of the Zoological Museum of the University of Berlin for his comments on the specimens sent to him.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
BOMBAY 3,  
October 17, 1964.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

## 9. SWALLOWS *HIRUNDO RUSTICA* LINNAEUS ROOSTING ON WIRES

(With a plate)

I have seen swallows roosting in enormous numbers in reed beds (*Phragmites karka* Trin.) in Kerala and near Calcutta, and in sugarcane fields in Rajasthan and Kerala. Sálím Ali (1962)<sup>1</sup> has reported them as roosting in mangroves at Bombay. I recently noted swallows *Hirundo rustica* roosting on electric power lines near Dharavi, Bombay. Swallows collecting in large numbers on electric as well as telephone wires during the day is a common sight but, so far as I am aware, they have not been reported as roosting at night on such exposed perches. The roost was first noticed on 12 December 1963, and was in use as such till 20 January 1964, when I left Bombay for a couple of months. It was found abandoned on my return to the site on 5 April 1964. The roost was already occupied on 30 August 1964, when I visited the place again, and continues to be still in use. The roosting behaviour of these birds is under observation and will be reported later.

The photographs accompanying the note were taken on 2 November 1964 at 9.45 p.m.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,  
BOMBAY 6-WB..  
February 2, 1965.

P. V. GEORGE,  
Research Scholar

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<sup>1</sup> Sálím Ali (1962): The BNHS/WHO Bird Migration Study Project—2. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 59 (3): 921-929.